Linda Myer

[redacted]

February 9, 2010

Dear Joe:

I hope you find some interesting reading here. I've enclosed the three eulogies from Dad's funeral in Feb. 1985 (can't believe it is 25 years since he died). I have notated who gave each one.

Also, I've enclosed his short memoir about his parents and the article that he refers to. It is so typical of his organized mind that he numbered the relevant paragraphs in the article and correlated them to his own remarks. I remember his telling us of his father breaking pits with his teeth. He would often say this while **he** was breaking open walnuts with his bare hands.

Finally, there is the history of our relatives, Mark and Dunya (Dena) Khinoy. Dunya was my father's aunt, the sister of his mother (my grandmother) Rose Zharjevsky Myer. The only one of the sisters I remember well is Belyuta Levin, and we are still very close to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the Reinganums. I also remember somewhat vaguely many of the cousins (Zarges and Taslitzes) mentioned on p.3. I also visited periodically with some of the Khinoy cousins of my dad's and my own generation. This history clearly shows that Dunya Khinoy was a political radical, but I don't know if the others became similarly active. I certainly don't recall Dad ever saying that his own parents were radicals, but it does mention heated political discussions at the sisters' apartment in Chicago.

Let me know if this sparks any other questions I might be able to answer for you.

Best of luck,

Linda

Linda Myer

Eulogy to Mike Myer withthe cooperation of Marion, Nancy, and Linda.....

by Carl Shier

Meyer U. Myer---a man given an unusual name, a man who led an exemplary, unusual, and complete life.

You have heard from Art Berlin on Mike's experience in practicing law and how his firm and lawyers viewed him. You have heard from Lester Rudoy on Mike's love of music and the pleasure he received and they received in playing his violin with his Quartet.

Mike Myer was a gentle kind man with a wry sense of humor. A man with strong priciples and beliefs. Even if you did not agree with him you knew where he stood. He was a fortunate man because he achived success in the areas of his life most important to him. He had a family that not only loved each other but they enjoyed each other. He also found his work to be absorbing and interesting, not just a chore. ~~Mexaxkxx~~ Mike worked until several months ago because he loved his work and said to many, "I'll quit when my work stops being fun." And he had a hobby, a wonderful hobby playing and practicing the violin which gave him a lot of personal satisfaction.

On February 15th, one day after his death~~x~~, Mike & Belle would have celebrated their 38th Anniversary. His marriage to Belle, and the family which was the result of this marriage were the greatest sources of satisfaction and happiness in Mike's life.

He was not only a loving father but an interested and concerned one. Mike was able to talk to his children about their concerns, their enthusiasms, their careers, whatever was most important to them.

Whatever their current interest was, whether it was Carole's career in promoting films, Lindas writing and acting, or Philips law practice, Mike was always eager to talk to them about it.

Mike's commitment as a father was demonstrated forcefully when he worked for decades for the right to legally adopt Carole, which he finally achieved not many years ago.

Lindadx was Mike's first child and he always was extremely attentive to her life, her interests, her friends, and her plans for the future. I remember this past summer seeing them sitting on our lawn in the Mt.Pleasant Subdivision of South Haven talking together as they have over all my years there, sharing their interests with each other.

Phillips marriage to Val resulted in May of 1984 in the 1st grandchild. Megan Myer. When I saw Mike in Palm Springs 2 weeks ago, he had just seen Megan again and with ovious pride he looked at her and said,"Nice baby, isnt she? Cute as a Bug"." It was his familyk, his children, and the pride showed through..The pride of Mikes deep feeling and passion for the family he cared so much about.

Mike's marriage to Belle and their lives together were beautiful to behold. Together they raised their family, visited many countries taking pictures, slides, and movies, spent time in Mt.Pleasant Subdivision, enjoyed going to Bear games together, playing golf together, interchanging photography equipment, having season tickets to the Chicago Symphony and choosing which plays to see when they came to Chicago. Loving to play bridge as partners even though at times the arguments on who was right or wrong on a certain bid and or playing the hand might be misinterpreted not knowing their deep relationship.

Having Dinner at their home as Mike chose which wine was appropriate for Belles healx was an experience mark not many forgot very easily. THEIR HOME WAS A HOME!! And there is not much more you can add to that...

Mike & Belle=----Belle & Mike....beautiful names together. A life partnership that was truly equal and responsible. At Mike's 75th Birthday Party we all remember Mike saying the memorable words:"All the happiness I've enjoyed----I owe to Belle." It was not only a marriage----but an everlasti love affair.

I met Mike over 50 years ago when as a Socialist he worked very hard for civil rights, civil liberties and a better life for all. Mike contributed greatly to the defense of victims of Civil Liberties as in the Minneapolis Trial of the victims of the infamous Smith Act, and in one of the most historic civil rights legal cases----the Hickman trial.

Mike believe in a just society, one that afforded opportunities to all. He was a vigorous oppoment of the wasteful and horrible Viet Nam war. Mike was very concerned that the super powers would never reach an agreement to outlaw nuclear war.

Mike read and subscribed to the socialist theoretical journals and had a deep interest in economic analysis. Mike had a great deal of intellectual curiosity.

In my own experience with Mike he told me that he felt that Unions had lost their vision and too many had been taken over by conservative forces not concerned with the community as a whole, and yet within his law firm where they handled the Company side in Union negotiations, he would not lend his knowledge to his firm on tactics and strategy at the bargaining table. That would have been a breach of his principles.

Mike <u>was</u> a good negotiator. That I know first hand. I witnessed with Belle & Marion the way Mike went about purchasing from Mexican weavers in a small village that gorgeous MAYAN CALENDAR RUG that lies in the basement on Eastwood Avenue.

And that basement.....with its tools and work bench. More for a Toolmaker than a home owner. The tools were not just there for show. Mike could and did use them. Miek was a hard worker, loved to work------he admired good workman ship as he did in observing how his violin was made and put together. Mike set high standards for himself and an example was how proud he was when as a lathe hand at Buick Aviation in Melrose Park during World War I he would bring the piece part he was making for the Pratt Whitney Engine up to the needed very close tolerance.....

Today there is much talk of family in its broad and personal sense---- family to Mike was very important. I've spoken of Belle and Mikes relationship and of Mikes to his children. There also was the relationship with his Brother Ed and his family , the family of REENEE and Carol REINGAMEN, of his cousin Bella sitting here, of Mikes regularly attending the Bysters Cousins Club or visiting the Kinoys in Philadelphia, the Sards in New YorkCity, Birmingham, and Boston.

Mike was also a special uncle to his many nieces and nephewsx, great nieces, and great nephwews many of who are here today.

There was not always happiness, as life is not always a happy one. Mike grieved over the loss of his sister Ida, our sister in law Sally Landau, and uncle Jack Lirtzman. He felt painful about Belle's brother the brilliant Bernard Landau afflicted with Alzheimers disease.

The number of friends far and wide so many are here today are so numerous that one cant possibly cover them all...From the West Coast friendsxx of a lifetime, to the neighbors, music lovers, the Mt.Pleasanters....They and we have all lost a great friend.

WE SAY.....SO LONG TO MIKE TODAY.....WE WILL MISS YOU.....IT WILL NOT BE THE SAME COMING INTO THE HOME ON EASTWOOD....MIKE..... YOU HAVE TAKEN A LITTLE OF ALL OF US WITH YOU.....BUT YOU LEAVE SO MUCH MORE BEHIND THAT CAN NEVER BE LOST.....OR TAKEN AWAY...

Given by
law partner
Arthur Barlin

When Belle first asked me if I would ~~to~~ speak on the subject of "Mike and the Law", I was very flattered--had been associated with Mike in practice for over 20 years and had always admired him as a lawyer--as well as a person. But as I began to think of what I was going to say, I became bothered. How could I even begin to gather and organize the profusion of thoughts and facts that came to mind? And then I remembered, among his other attributes, Mike was also an excellent teacher. My mind went back to those many times I had approached him with a knotty legal problem and asked his advice--"What do I do, Mike? Where do I begin?" I could see him with that slight smile on his face which seemed to say, "You really don't have to ask me that" and then he would say, "Go to the books, Art. Go to the books." So that's what I did. I went to the books.

In this case, the books are the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, consisting of several large volumes containing a listing for every lawyer admitted to practice in the United States. Nearly every law office contains a set for reference. I found Mike's listing, only one sentence long as is usually the case, and I'd like to read it to you:

Myer, Meyer J. '05 '28 av C + L 145 PhB, J.D. and his address. What does this tell us? That Mike was born in 1905 and admitted to practice in 1928, which would have been at the tender age of 22 or 23. We also know that he remained a practicing lawyer for more than the next 50 years, almost a lifetime in itself. Next comes the cryptic notation "a"--the explanation is at the front of the directory, and reads as follows:

> The legal ability ratings are "a" very high, "b" from high to very high and "c" from fair to high. Those to whom inquiries are directed are requested to make their recommendations on the basis of the standard of ability for the place or area where the lawyer practices.....

Obviously, this does not represent Mike's appraisal of himself, but rather the appraisal of his peers. Next comes the notation "v". Again in the front of the directory:

> General recommendations rating: The rating in this category is "v" (very high) and embraces faithful adherence to ethical standards; professional reliability and diligence; and other relevant factors.

These are the only ratings, and a v are the highest you can achieve. Finally, "C + L 145 PhB, J.D." informs us that Mike received both his bachelors and his law degree from the University of Chicago. To go a bit beyong the directory, it should not surprise anyone that Mike was a member of the Order of the Coif, the Phi Beta Kappa of law graduates. Finally, I understand that Mike ranked 2nd in his graduating law class, a particularly brilliant and outstanding class according to Sam Kane, who was a classmate, long-time friend and former partner of Mike's. Sam, no mean lawyer himself, often spoke with awe of Mike's abilities and accomplishments as a student of the law.

All of this tells us something about Mike, the lawyer, but by no means the whole story. Given his abilities and his early accomplishments, how did Mike practice law and what did it mean to him to be a lawyer? Several possible explanations come to mind, but can be quickly dismissed. He certainly wasn't seeking fame and glory. Mike was Both a modest and private pers He wasn't seeking power and he certainly was not pursuing wealth. Not that he couldn't have had all of those things. Given his ability, Mike could easily have been a jewel in the crown of any Chicago law firm. His long time partner, Ed Weinstein often said with complete certainty and absolute conviction "I'd stack him up against any lawyer in Chicago." Of course, Ed may have been slightly biased, but there was still much truth in what he said. When Mike expounded on any subject of the law, everybody listened--judges and lawyers alike--which was a wise thing to do, since much could be learned from him.

It seems to me that there is a simple explanation for Mike's involvement with the law--plainly and simply, he came to love the law, both its study and its practice, and this was a love which never faded. He often said that he did not find himself until he went to law school. Before that, he had been a mediocre and disinterested student. But whenever he spoke of the law, his eyes lit up. And what he learned, he never forgot. I suspect he is the only lawyer I have ever known who, 50 years after graduation, could have taken and passed the bar exam without the benefit of a review course.

As a true and constant lover of the law, he both cherished and respected it; he would never twist it or manipulate it for either his own or anyone else's ~~interest~~ special advantage. And he expected all other lawyers to observe the same high standards--for many years, the one committee of the Chicago Bar Association to which he devoted his greatest efforts was the Ethics Committee.

His devotion to the law is also reflected in the fact that for many years, he represented the poor and disadvantaged. I like to think this was because he felt the blessings of the law should fall equally on everybody--the rich and the advantaged should enjoy them in the same measure as the poor, but certainly in no greater measure. So when people of little means sought his assistance, he gave it gladly and wholeheartedly to make sure that the proper balance was maintained.

Having been so gratified himself from the practice of law, he must have been especially gratified when his son, Phillip, chose the same path. And we can be gratified also in knowing that through Phillip, the chain of tradition and devotion that Mike established will not be broken.

Considering that in his career, Mike had the satisfaction of working in a field that provided him with so much gratification, one would have to say that he was a fortunate man. And those of us who were lucky enough to have worked so closely with him, Ed Weinstein, Walter New, Mike Braude and myself, would have to say that we were very fortunate, too.

Rest in peace, Mike. Yours was a job well done.

By friend and musician Les Rudoy

Webster in part defines a gentleman as one of superior social position or noble birth, Mike Myer was never of these; the definition continues, it is a polite, gracious considerate man of high standard of propriety and behavior and surely Mike was all of this and more.

We had much in common, a love of the violin and a return to the serious study of the instrument after laying it aside for many years. We both were priviledged to coach with that remarkable pedagogue Morris Gomberg and it was a source of unending discussion between us. Techniques, practicing habits etc.

Mike's life was dedicated to the mending of strife. The making of shalomand the creation of beauty by walking in the musical footsteps of the great composers.

The side I knew best was his great love of music, his appreciation of musical artistry and his unceasing striving to perfect his own art. This I so admired.

His love and knowledge of instruments was a continuing source of mutual interest between us. He was the proud possessor of a lovely violin and several important bows and as he often said "I am the temporary care taker and he made every effort to hand them on in perfect condition.

The harmony in Mike's life was seen in the love and respect of his children and the devotion of his dear wife Belle, as well as his many friends and associates.

His musical collegues will miss this respected gentleman for he was a member of the Chicago Chamber Music Players, The Highland Park Strings and earlier the DePaul University community symphony. His quiet advice and help was often sought in helping these organization to stay alive and well.

If I may I would like to close with a short paragraph from Henry David Thoreau's Walden.

As surely as the sunset of my latest November shall translate me to the etheral world and remind me of the ruddy morning of youth; as surely as the last strain of music which falls on my decaying ear shall age be forgatten or; in short the manifold influences of mature during the term of our natural life, so surely my friend shall forever be my friend and reflect a ray of god to me and time shall foster and adorn and consecrate our friendship, No less than the ruins of temples. As I love nature, as I love singing birds and gleaming stubble and flowing rivers, and morning and evening and summer and winter. I love thee, my friend.